

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

David J. Reinhard
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Gerardo Cepeda, 26, Beloit, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to two years in prison without parole for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Cepeda pleaded guilty to this charge on August 1, 2008.

From December 2007 to April 2008, Cepeda conspired to distribute cocaine with Fidel Holguin by acting as a middle man between Holguin and another individual during numerous cocaine deals. During a court authorized wiretap of Holguin's telephones, agents intercepted numerous drug-related calls between Cepeda and Holguin. In an interview with law enforcement officers, Cepeda admitted conspiring with Holguin to distribute cocaine.

The charges against Cepeda were the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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